



Our Children. Our Schools. Our Future.

## RESOURCES

Arizona [College Goal Sunday](#)

FAFSA [Website](#)

[Arizona 529](#) (College Savings) Plan

[Financial Avenue](#)—  
Financial Management  
Lessons

[Practical Money Skills](#)—  
Financial Literacy for  
Everyone

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# This Month at Arizona Ready...

FEBRUARY 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Financing a college education can be a daunting task for students and their families. Despite the understood importance of a postsecondary education, certification or training, saving for it is too often neglected due to a lack of either information or of financial ability. There are, of course, many financial aid options, and families with students of any age can and should be thinking about college funds.

Now that seniors have already applied to college and are exploring what financial options are available, a good place to start is the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). By filling out a FAFSA you can determine what financial aid you are eligible for and can start to map out what additional funds you need to acquire. This past month, the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) held its annual “College Goal Sunday” events to assist students and families explore financial aid options. Although the priority deadline for the FAFSA is quickly approaching on March 1, you still can apply beyond that date. In addition, the ACPE has valuable resources on its website and can certainly help families navigate through the FAFSA application.

Once you have filled out your FAFSA, explore the financial aid options available from your college or university by contacting its financial aid office. Here you can find a variety of scholarships that can help fill gaps not covered by the federal aid. Application deadlines for scholarships can vary by institution and type of scholarship, so be sure to visit the office early and stay on top of any deadlines.

Of course, it is never too early to think about college funds. So, even if you can’t afford to put aside much on a yearly basis, every bit helps motivate students to continue their educational endeavors. If you don’t know where to start, explore some of your options through the Arizona Family College Savings Program ([www.az529.gov](http://www.az529.gov)). This site can set you on a path to find the right college savings plan for your needs, whether it be for a four-year university, community college, trade school or training program.

A postsecondary education is critical to a successful future, and it is often a family effort to get students where they need to be. Don’t let a fear of financial resources deter you from exploring options. With a little research and work, you can gain assistance in funding your college education and can easily create a plan to save college funds for your child(ren).

Sincerely,  
The Arizona Ready Team